



National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office

2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405

Marc Tosiano, Director

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717-787-3904

Fax: 717-782-4011

nass-pa@nass.usda.gov

www.usda.gov/nass



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending October 16, 2005

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Fair Week for Field Work: Several showers in the week provided some advantages. The moisture helped soil and pasture conditions tremendously. However, there were few days when conditions in the field were operable. With all of the cloud coverage, sunlight seemed hard to come by. Temperatures remained around the 60's throughout the week. Overall, 3 days were suitable for field work, and principal farm activities included plowing, haymaking, harvesting apples and grapes, planting barley and wheat, harvesting corn, harvesting soybeans, and finishing alfalfa's fourth cutting.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending October 16, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
6	11	58	25

Crops: Fall plowing is now 68 percent complete, still behind last year's pace. Eighty-six percent of the soybean crop is dropping leaves slower than last year at this time, even though 28 percent of the crop is now harvested, which is ahead of the previous year's pace. Soybean conditions dropped slightly from last week as 53 percent of the crop is now rated as either good or excellent. Since surpassing the dented stage, 97 percent of the corn crop has matured and 59 percent of corn for grain is now harvested, well ahead of the 5-year average. Ninety-three percent of next year's barley crop is planted, and 72 percent of the crop is already emerged. Both are well ahead of the historic pace. Winter wheat remained at fifty-eight percent planted as 38 percent of the crop has already emerged. The 4th cutting of alfalfa still remains at eighty-nine percent complete. The quality of hay made this week went down from last week's and was rated with the following conditions: 7 percent very poor, 16

percent poor, 43 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

Sixty-eight percent of the apple crop is now harvested. The grape harvest is coming along nicely as 50 percent of the crop has been harvested.

Livestock: Rainfall greatly improved conditions compared to last week's poor figures. However, pastures are still not considered to be in great quality, especially with lack of sunlight. Pasture conditions rated with the following: 22 percent very poor, 28 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 15 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

U.S. as of October 9, 2005: Highlights: Above-normal temperatures prevailed across most of the Nation, promoting summer crop maturation and winter wheat emergence. Tropical Storm Tammy combined with a slow-moving cold front to produce heavy rainfall along the Atlantic Coast. Corn: Maturation advanced to 96 percent, compared with 86 percent last year and 92 percent for the 5-year average. Pennsylvania's crop led the normal pace by 23 points. Growers had harvested 36 percent of their acreage, 4 percentage points ahead of last year but the same as normal. Soybeans: Ninety-seven percent of the acreage was dropping leaves or beyond, 4 points ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Progress was at or ahead of the normal pace in all States. Meanwhile, harvest advanced to 60 percent complete, compared with 55 percent last year and 51 percent for the 5-year average. Winter Wheat: Producers had planted 68 percent of their acreage, the same as last year but 1 point ahead of normal. Planting progressed rapidly in the eastern Corn Belt. Acreage emerged, at 38 percent, was 3 points behind last year and 1 point behind normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending October 16, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - October 16, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	66	49	57	4	0.02	1	19.97	-4.65	64	3,113	532	4,916
Franklin	66	46	56	5	0.04	1	23.49	-2.92	102	2,758	389	4,607
Meadville	66	46	56	6	0.00	0	23.56	-2.99	73	2,861	692	4,706
Mercer	68	46	57	6	0.00	0	24.40	-0.74	98	2,857	510	4,685
Springboro	68	46	56	3	0.00	0	26.06	2.28	81	2,614	82	4,400
Warren	66	46	56	5	0.05	1	22.59	-4.11	76	2,714	426	4,543
North Central												
Bradford Region	63	44	53	7	0.17	4	25.85	-0.70	88	2,117	475	3,859
Emporium	68	46	57	9	0.07	2	18.76	-7.42	81	2,715	846	4,545
Kane	67	44	54	8	0.07	2	21.71	-5.42	70	2,029	426	3,766
Laporte	62	43	51	0	1.08	6	27.08	2.53	88	2,413	74	4,190
Lock Haven	71	49	57	6	0.29	5	16.15	-7.95	70	3,105	615	4,988
Port Allegany	63	45	54	5	0.22	7	20.84	-4.42	76	2,316	500	4,069
Renovo	68	46	57	6	0.15	5	14.48	-9.62	67	3,051	561	4,933
Ridgway	64	46	55	7	0.10	2	21.77	-4.41	75	2,364	495	4,163
Stevenson Dam	67	49	57	9	0.08	4	18.12	-8.06	76	2,887	1,018	4,751
Towanda	68	45	55	4	1.16	5	19.86	-0.55	69	2,843	485	4,688
Wellsboro	62	43	52	4	0.59	6	24.55	3.98	69	2,252	494	4,000
Williamsport	71	50	58	6	1.01	2	25.48	1.66	58	3,303	558	5,197
Northeast												
Hawley	65	46	54	5	3.82	6	24.02	0.89	71	2,533	520	4,343
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	66	49	56	4	2.09	6	17.85	-4.63	67	3,374	771	5,268
Susquehanna	65	47	54	6	3.34	7	25.65	0.85	81	2,705	803	4,532
West Central												
Butler	72	46	57	7	0.07	2	21.48	-3.37	76	2,903	443	4,796
New Castle	77	42	59	8	0.05	1	24.62	1.76	72	3,182	717	5,072
Slippery Rock	74	46	58	8	0.08	2	23.05	-1.30	76	2,958	751	4,861
Central												
Altoona/Blair	67	48	56	4	0.00	0	12.55	-9.28	53	2,863	248	4,736
DuBois	63	45	55	5	0.17	5	20.35	-4.65	97	2,672	422	4,519
Lewistown	70	50	58	4	0.29	4	20.29	-3.07	63	3,272	398	5,187
Middletown	74	53	60	5	0.60	3	21.04	-2.23	57	3,856	602	5,811
Prince Gallitzi	66	46	54	5	0.07	1	18.57	-9.43	75	2,487	386	4,311
Selinsgrove	70	48	57	5	0.85	5	22.44	-1.93	65	3,161	485	5,056
State College	67	49	56	4	0.15	4	15.86	-6.18	74	3,072	502	4,976
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	73	52	60	7	1.24	4	30.12	4.79	66	3,485	517	5,414
Lehighton	69	49	57	4	0.92	5	26.14	0.83	68	3,100	242	5,008
Matamoras	68	48	55	4	4.63	7	34.43	8.92	78	2,757	186	4,606
Tobyhanna	69	49	56	9	3.09	6	31.44	4.09	98	3,058	1,325	4,954
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	73	44	59	7	0.00	0	16.84	-6.26	77	3,492	854	5,431
Derry	73	44	58	7	0.06	1	20.93	-3.09	64	2,987	499	4,883
Myersdale	74	44	57	6	0.44	4	17.99	-8.31	68	2,327	-129	4,128
Mount Pleasant	73	38	56	6	0.06	2	22.71	-4.70	81	2,878	656	4,776
Pittsburgh Intl	71	43	58	5	0.01	1	20.71	-0.90	70	3,314	552	5,235
Rector	68	44	57	7	0.20	2	21.64	-5.77	97	2,901	679	4,797
Waynesburg	74	37	58	8	0.30	2	18.25	-5.24	69	3,032	479	4,940
South Central												
Biglerville	73	49	59	4	0.15	4	26.07	3.88	68	3,397	216	5,330
Everett	67	48	56	4	0.02	1	13.92	-7.43	60	2,398	-213	4,226
Hanover	74	46	58	3	0.19	3	26.18	3.99	60	3,372	191	5,296
Shippensburg	72	49	58	3	0.34	4	24.17	2.61	73	3,428	259	5,349
South Mountain	67	48	55	3	0.39	4	24.77	2.94	63	2,881	275	4,814
York	76	46	59	4	0.34	4	20.11	-3.38	54	3,422	247	5,345
Southeast												
Green Lane	73	51	59	6	0.94	6	26.04	1.53	63	3,458	622	5,394
Hamburg	74	51	59	8	0.37	5	24.29	-4.12	62	3,459	888	5,389
Hopewell	73	51	59	3	1.85	5	29.22	3.48	86	3,474	119	5,412
Lancaster	75	48	60	5	0.50	3	26.18	1.40	61	3,570	566	5,504
Neshaminy Falls	74	51	59	6	2.33	6	29.80	1.48	58	3,298	335	5,209
New Holland	76	50	58	5	0.72	6	29.03	4.25	61	3,643	639	5,581
Philadelphia	76	53	62	5	0.87	5	24.02	0.05	59	4,090	614	6,067
Philadelphia NE	76	53	61	5	1.62	5	26.83	2.86	61	3,966	490	5,932
Reading	74	51	60	7	0.39	4	23.23	-3.13	62	3,733	790	5,673
Valley Forge Na	74	52	59	3	1.21	4	24.35	-1.39	48	3,326	-29	5,232
Willow Grove	73	52	59	6	1.14	3	24.52	-3.80	46	3,651	688	5,603

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County has received various amounts of rainfall since last Friday. From Friday into Saturday most areas had at least 5 inches of rain. This week has been cloudy, misty, and rainy all week. No field work completed due to muddy field conditions. Some apples were being harvested but made for interesting loading conditions for trucks to take apples out of fields. Some corn and soybeans will be affected by the wet weather. Some reports of soybeans sprouting in the county. No additional wheat or barley was planted this week due to muddy conditions. Some wheat and barley has now emerged since rainfall received but now Adams County could use some sunshine to dry things out a little.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It has been a very damp and cool week. No local flooding from the rains. Not much corn harvested as most that is now remaining is for ear corn. The ground has not been suitable for wheat or barley planting. Apple harvest was delayed a few days, but with the cool weather and rain it helped the size and quality. Pastures are rebounding nicely.

BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA) - Rains of the past week has slowed the soybean harvest by at least a week. The rains were sorely needed to replenish ground water.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Fall planted crops winter wheat and barley appear to be off to an excellent start. Corn and soybean yields are the best they have been in 10 years. Some townships in the southern part of Clarion county yields for most crops were affected by lack of moisture.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It was a rainy and cool week. Harvesting of potatoes has continued, but potato sizes are small. Corn harvesting is underway. Corn yields vary widely across the county.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Good week for fall chores. There was 3/8 of an inch of rainfall. Barley seedings are looking good.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Rain, clouds and unpredictable weather put the brakes on harvest this week. Rain helped to get the fall small grains up and out of the ground. Earlier seedings of alfalfa and forage grasses look rough. Plant development for the remainder of the fall will significantly impact

winter survival. Corn yields have been surprising everyone because they are far better than expected. Beans not harvested yet are starting to go down. This week of clearing and dry weather is just what is needed at this time.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Much needed rain have brought back some green color to area pastures. High winds caused some tree fruit drop. Apple harvest has proceeded on a timely basis with excellent fruit. Fruit is slightly undersized.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - Cool damp week hampers field activities. Some corn was harvested, but most farmers stayed out of the fields all week. Small grains germinated and emerged since the rains returned, but some wet spots look like they drowned out.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA) - Rain throughout the week kept most growers out of the fields. Wind on the weekend did a good job of drying things out and Monday morning found combines in the field and potatoes on top of the ground. Harvest is off and running again after a much needed rainy week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - There were very few field activities conducted this past week due to the rain and cloudy skies. The amount of rainfall during the week was in the one inch range, in addition to the 3.5 - 5 inches reported for last week. The wheat and barley that has emerged is looking exceptionally good. The pastures have greened up nicely. The main activities for the week were spreading manure and making machinery and building repairs.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - The rain finally came and left between 5 to 8 inches. High moisture corn needs to be done. Stalks are brittle, hope the wind calms down.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - It has been a much more fall-like week with cooler temperatures. Corn harvest continues ahead of normal pace with very little disruption from the damp conditions. Soybean harvest was slowed because of the moisture. Grass is growing again after last weekend's substantial rainfall.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending October 16, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	68	73	63
Corn, mature	97	96	84
Corn, harvested	59	52	42
Barley, planted	93	95	81
Barley, emerged	72	66	59
Wheat, planted	58	65	62
Wheat, emerged	38	30	35
Soybeans, harvested	28	25	22
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	89	81	76
Apples, harvested	68	98	85
Grapes, harvested	80	84	80

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending October 16, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	3	45	41	10
Soybeans	3	8	36	38	15
Quality of hay made	7	16	43	21	13
Pasture	22	28	33	15	2

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National Agricultural Statistics Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
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